

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON  
MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB AT 7.45PM**

**Present:** Cllrs Allfrey, Hart, Higgins, Pewter, Philp, Scrivens, Southgate, Worley  
Cllr H Johnson  
**In the Chair:** Cllr Allfrey  
**Clerk:** Claire Waters  
**Also Present:** 1 parishioner

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Moffat for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Beavis and for late arrival from Cllr Johnson

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were approved as a correct record of events.

Proposed: Cllr Hart                      Seconded: Cllr Scrivens                      Signed by the Chairman

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**PUBLIC FORUM**

A parishioner asked for clarification of the reserves held by the Parish Council, and asked if any were earmarked reserves. The clerk confirmed that earmarked reserves are held as follows and have been confirmed to the Audit Commission in the 2014 Annual Return:

£20,000	Playing field renovation/relocation
£20,000	Historic village centre infrastructure fund
£10,000	War Memorial renovation
£5,000	Public Toilet maintenance

Councillors gave examples of historic village centre work which has been funded recently, such as repairs to the Churchyard wall and repairs to the Tennis Club wall.

**PROGRESS CHECK**

**1119.11** Allotments to the rear of the Rising Sun: Cllr Hart reported that this land has now been purchased by a private buyer.

**1151.12** Big Tree Plant scheme. Clarification of the verge ownership along Sheepcot Road is being sought from Essex Highways, to ensure that maintenance of any new trees planted can be effectively managed. Local volunteers will be asked to help with tree planting. Cllr Worley, Cllr Allfrey and the clerk will visit the site to determine the number and type of trees required.

**HIGHWAYS**

- Badly damaged road surfaces at Rushley Green have been reported to Highways. Cllr Philp has volunteered to repair the surface from Hewsons to Rushley Green Farm if Highways will supply the planings. The clerk will follow this up.

- Update on 7.5t weight limit restriction. Trading Standards suggested modifications to the scheme, mainly due to finding a suitable place to park to carry out enforcement. Formal consultation should begin at the end of October and last for 21 days. If the scheme is approved it will not be implement until next financial year.

- It was noted that a sunken manhole cover at Pye Corner has still not been resolved.

**REPORTS**

**Police/PCSO:** Due to changes in Police procedures an area crime report has been sent this month which contains information about Braintree, Witham and Halstead but no specific detail about Castle Hedingham. The Parish Council regrets the loss of this useful information. Cllr Johnson will ask about the new procedure at his next Joint Action Group meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**ECC report:** None.

**BDC report:** Cllr Johnson raised parishioners concerns about the potential loss of dispensing services at Castle Hedingham Surgery, this was discussed at item 12 on the agenda.

### **DECISION ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT FORGE GREEN**

**RESOLVED:** To purchase 3x sets of 300 solar fairy lights in bright white for the tree at Forge Green at £69.98 per set. To accept the offer from Dave Greenway to put the lights up and take them down for a charge of £100.00, and to store the lights out of season in the Pump House.

**Proposed:** Cllr Southgate

**Seconded:** Cllr Hart

**Agreed unanimously.**

### **REPORT ON VISIT FROM NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP**

The clerk distributed a written report following the visit of the Area Enforcement Manager of NEPP to the village on 1<sup>st</sup> October. NEPP are based in Colchester and have taken over the majority of parking enforcement in the area. Key points raised during the visit were:

Community enforcement officers can make routine visits, but only to areas where enforceable restrictions are in place.

*Kirby Hall Road:* Zig zag lines by the school are not scheduled to be repainted until next spring.

*Kirby Hall Road/New Park:* Residents whose dropped kerb driveways are frequently obstructed can apply to NEPP in writing for automatic enforcement on a permanent basis or during certain hours e.g. school pick up and drop off times. However, this could mean that their own vehicle or a visitor's vehicle would receive a ticket if parked across their own driveway.

*St James Street:* The clerk will investigate the feasibility of signs asking people not to park in St James Street all day, but to support village shops by leaving parking spaces free for customers. The clerk will also research the use of planters or troughs to protect the green by the tennis club from parking damage.

*Crouch Green:* Some vehicles continue to be parked on the greensward causing damage and restricting visibility for traffic turning out of Nunnery Street. This is not NEPP responsibility and will be reported again to the Police.

### **REPORT ON REDESIGNATION OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM SURGERY**

Proposals which could affect the Dispensing status of Castle Hedingham Surgery were considered. The possible loss of dispensary services is of great concern to parishioners and Councillors. The consultation period has been extended until the end of October to enable local councils to respond. Cllr Beavis and Cllr Johnson have been opposing any proposed changes. The clerk will respond on behalf of the Parish Council to object to any loss of dispensing services in the village.

### **TALKING BENCHES**

Cllr Worley explained the concept of talking benches, which are the subject of an Essex County Council Lottery Bid for 2015. Further details of proposals will be an agenda item for the November meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

**Essex Police:** Throughout June and July the force spoke to community representatives, key partners and local officers about the options to refresh our approach. The feedback emphasises the value placed on local relationships. From October 1<sup>st</sup> the following changes will be made:

1. Local PCSOs will hold a weekly 'street meet' on their patch.
2. Every district will hold five or six Local Community Meetings (every eight weeks);
3. Local Community Meetings (LCMs) will be chaired by supervisory officer (sergeant or above);
4. Every LCM and street meet will be advertised on the Essex Police website in advance;
5. Essex Police website will show agreed local priorities as well as the activity taken to address them.

Castle Hedingham "Street Meets" will take place on **1st November from 14:30 - 15:30** and **4th December from 10:00 - 11:00**, outside Buckleys tea rooms, St James Street.

**NHS Mid Essex CCG:** on 25 September resolved to revise its policy for funding specialist fertility services (including IVF). Starting immediately and until the policy is reviewed in September 2015, the CCG will

only fund specialist fertility services in exceptional clinical cases. The CCG needs to make £8 million in savings and further savings next year.

### **REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS**

**Magna Carta 2015:** Lottery funding has been received and a Magna Carta 2015 bank account is in the process of being set up. The next meeting will be with Demetra and Jason Lindsay to plan the village event they have offered to host at Hedingham Castle on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2015.

**War Memorial:** A press release has been issued. The work will commence early in 2015.

**High Speed Broadband:** The clerk will ask County Broadband for a progress report.

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Request from Castle Players for donation towards replacement of shed.
- Talking Benches project details
- Plans and timing for switching on Christmas Lights
- Ordinary Watercourse Mapping project
- Update of Parish Emergency Plan

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Normal Parish Council**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm**

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE